

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 12556 191309Z

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ACTION NEA-16

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4000

INFO AEC GERMANTOWN

US MISSION IAEA VIENNA 266

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, IN

SUBJECT: GUARDIAN REPORTS SETHNA'S VIEWS ON CANADIAN

COOPERATION, PEACEFUL AND WARLIKE EXPLOSIONS

REF: NEW DELHI 12334

1. REFTEL, BASED ON WHAT NOW APPEAR TO BE FAULTY INDIAN PRESS ACCOUNTS OF WALTER SCHWARZ' SEPTEMBER 9 GUARDIAN STORY, INCORRECTLY REPORTED INDIAN AEC CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS ON SUSPENSION OF ATOMIC COOPERATION. RELEVANT GUARDIAN PARAGRAPH FOLLOWS: QUOTE: IRONICALLY, CANADA'S ACTION WILL MAKE NO DIFFERENCE TO THE TEST EXPLOSION PROGRAMME, BUT WILL CAUSE A SUBSTANTIAL SETBACK TO INDIA'S NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS. DR. SETHNA SAID THIS PROGRAMME-- ALREADY YEARS BEHIND SCHEDULE AND VITAL FOR INCREASING FOOD AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION-- WILL NOW BE FURTHER DELAYED "BY A YEAR IF WE ARE LUCKY, MORE LIKELY TWO YEARS."

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 12556 191309Z

END QUOTE.

2. RAMANNA ALSO SAID THAT "RESEARCH INTO FUSION WAS NOW BEING ENLARGED AT THE INSTITUTE, IN SPITE OF BUDGETARY CUTS THAT WERE FORCING HIM TO CLOSE DOWN OTHER PROJECTS."

3. ADDRESSEES MAY ALSO FIND FOLLOWING STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO SETHAN IN SCHWARZ ARTICLE OF INTEREST: QUOTE: AN INDUSTRIAL FUEL IS ALSO THE FUEL FOR A ROCKET. A PEACEFUL EXPLOSION CAN BECOME A WARLIKE EXPLOSION. IT'S A MATTER OF CHOICE. END QUOTE.SCHNEIDER

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